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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

May 16, 1960



While waiting outside the meeting at the Elysee today, I picked up the following miscellaneous bits of information from various French and British sources:

In his conversation with the French, Khrushchev referred to rumors that he was no longer in control of the Soviet regime and said that such reports were being deliberately spread.

A Russian source told a member of the French Delegation that Malinovski had come to the conference because the Soviets had noticed that Secretary Gates was on the American Delegation.

In the conversation with British, Malinovski said that the statements that the Russians had not shot down the American plane from twenty thousand meters was a lie and that the Soviets would be prepared to demonstrate their ability to do this. He said this accomplishment demonstrated that the American bomber was finished. When Khrushchev referred to the ability of his rockets, he turned to Malinovski who confirmed his remarks that they were ready.

The French Ambassador to Moscow told me Yuri Zhukov had told him that Brezhnev was no longer a member of the Party Secretariat.

I asked the British Ambassador to Moscow why he thought Khrushchev had approached the British and French and not the U.S. on the plane incident. I asked specifically whether he thought he could obtain statements from the British and French condemning our actions. Sir Patrick Reilly replied that Khrushchev had made no such attempt although he had in passing remarked that he was sure Macmillan did not approve of our actions.

In a brief discussion with a minor member of the Soviet Delegation, he remarked that it was a great shame that this plane incident had occurred, particularly at this time. I agreed it was most unfortunate but said I could not understand why they were exploiting it so hard. He replied that Mr. Khrushchev in his statement had exonerated the President personally and they could not understand his endorsing such flights as a government policy. According to the French, the Soviets had made similar statements to them.

LThompson:asr

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